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REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

OF THE

TOWN OF MEREDITH,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1850.

MEREDITH BRIDGE, N. H.:

PRINTED BY KEACH & SEAVER.....DEMOCRAT PRESS.

1850.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

REPORT

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SELECTMEN

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FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1880.

MERRIDEN BRIDGE, N. H.

PRINTED BY LEONARD & BATES, DEDDENHURST, N. H.

1880.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen charge tharge themselves with the following items :

Cash, Collector's lists, notes, bills, &c., reported by the Auditors,	
March 9th, 1849,	1175.22
Assessment of State tax,	526.66
“ “ County tax,	829.46
“ “ School tax,	1053.31
“ “ Town tax,	2080.00
“ “ Road tax,	1040.00
Literary fund received July 21, 1849,	77.96
Cash received of the town of Wentworth,	21.00
Cash received of the County,	192.00
Cash borrowed of Gideon Piper,	300.00
Cash received of State for railroad tax,	472.72
Cash received for the rent of the Downing farm in 1848,	20.00
Cash received of the town of Waterville,	2.00
Cash received of Noah Robinson, town agent,	43.32
Cash received of John T. Coffin,	42.23
Cash received of John G. Robinson,	80.00
Cash received of N. Robinson, town agent,	79.00
Error in Collector's lists,	22.80
	\$8057.68

Which is accounted for as follows :

Paid for External Poor the past year.

Paid Cole, Davis & Co., for taking J. Haven to the town farm twice,	2.50
“ “ “ for necessaries for Dewit Clinton's family,	19.04
“ Mrs. Dockham for washing for do.,	3.50
“ Polly Roberts for nursing do.,	9.00
“ Tho. M. Sanborn for doctoring do.,	10.50
“ Joseph Knowles, bill for doctoring Benjamin Quimby's wife.	10.00
“ “ “ “ in District No. 1,	12.00
“ “ “ “ J. Dockham and J. Quimby,	3.00
“ for transporting Irish family to Boston,	6.00
“ Mrs. Elliott for work at Samuel P. Sanborns's	.50
“ Daniel Hilton's bill for coffin for Thomas Dow,	5.50
“ Jona. Quimby for taking care of Pluma Thurston,	1.00
“ Simeon Cate's bill for necessaries for Mrs. Healey's family,	5.33

Paid Simeon Taylor for the support of his family,	65.00
" McD. Lovejoy for the support of his mother,	9.00
" the town of Moultonborough for the support of J. Haven,	13.25
" S. Bean and Co.'s bill for necessaries for paupers,	29.04
" J. Neal, Jr's. bill for wood for Mrs. Farrar,	7.33
" James Bartlett's bill for the support of Caroline McCrellis.	42.85
" Alvah Bickford's bill for the support of Sally Cotton,	13.50
" John Sanborn's bill for doctoring paupers pr. agreement,	23.75
" R. E. Merrill's bill for doctoring paupers,	16.25
" Moses Plummer's bill for necessaries for the town farm,	161.63
" Cole, Davis & Co.'s bill for plough for town farm,	8.00
" David P. Hatch for building wall on town farm,	40.00
" Lang & Stevens's bill for necessaries for paupers,	2.78
" Thomas M. Sanborn's bill for doctoring in town,	8.00
" C. S. & J. M. Prescott's bill for wood for paupers,	3.38
" T. M. Sanborn's bill for doctoring Mrs. Currier in 1848,	6.50
" R. E. Merrill's bill for truss for D. Kelly,	3.50
" " " doctoring R. Stanton,	7.00
" John Sanborn's bill for doctoring R. Stanton,	1.00
" Polly Fogg's bill for the support of Joseph Fogg.	26.00
" for transporting Irish woman and child to Concord,	1.00
" Doct. Samuel Wright's bill on account of small pox,	5.00
" David B. Plumer's bill of two heifers for the town farm,	26.00
" Taylor & Grant's bill for the support of Hiram Currier in 1848,	15.00
" Wm. G. Connor for going to town farm with Haven,	.50
" James Gordon's bill for coffin for Thomas Chattel's child,	1.50
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	\$624.63

Paid Current Expenses as follows.

Paid Keach & Seaver's bill for printing town reports,	14.00
" R. Merrill's bill for stationery,	4.49
" J. Davis 2d bill for railroad fare,	.95
" " " postage,	1.38
" " " board at sundry places,	3.00
" " " badges for firewards,	4.75
" Capt. Dolloff's bill for military,	39.50
" Capt. Swain's " "	46.00
" Capt. Prescott's " "	54.50
" G. W. Mooney's " "	11.00
" Staff Officers, " "	10.50
" Capt. Wadleigh's " "	40.50
" Cole, Davis & Co.'s bill for Stationery,	1.00
" J. C. Moulton's bill for blank books for clerk,	8.50
" Hugh Blaisdell's bill fireward,	1.00
" E. B. Prescott's bill for the use of horse,	1.25
" County tax,	797.56
" State tax,	506.40

Paid	Abel B. Eastman for ballance due him March 9, 1849,	39.40
"	Abel B. Eastman's bill for services at town meeting,	2.00
"	Charles Parker for balance due him March 9th. 1849,	68.56
"	Charles Parker's bill for services at town meeting and settling,	4.62
"	Thos. H. Holland for balance due him March 9th, 1849,	52.67
"	Eleazer Young's bill for boarding selectmen and horses,	15.69
"	T. H. Holland's bill for stationery,	1.13
"	John Haine's bill as witness in J. C. Moulton's case,	.48
"	T. H. Holland's bill for attending muster,	2.75
"	" " of journey to Moultonborough,	2.60
"	S. Swain's bill of expenses surveying the town line,	2.67
"	John Garland for digging out stage,	.12
"	Auditors' bills, March 1849,	4.50
"	Bradley Hannaford's poll tax for 1848,	2.06
"	S. Swain's bill for stationery,	.84
"	T. H. Holland's bill for journey to Wentworth on account of paupers,	6.20
"	T. H. Holland's bill for board at sundry places,	1.55
"	interest on R. Davis's note one year,	12.00
"	Freeman S. Pitman's bill of abatements for 1848,	56.46
"	Charles Parker's bill of Journey to Lowell, in 1848,	7.50
"	T. J. Coffins bill for services in 1848,	12.00
"	" " witness in Perley case,	1.18
"	T. H. Holland's bill for railroad fare,	7.50
"	S. W. Sander's bill for stove,	17.75
"	Insurance on alms house,	2.48
"	J. T. Coffin's bill of services as fund agent,	10.00
"	J. K. Young's bill of services as Superintending School com.	15.00
"	S. J. Pitman's " " " "	15.00
"	" " " " Town Clerk,	24.00
"	Keach & Seaver's bill for printing for firewards,	1.50
"	Thos. Eastman's note and interest,	106.00
"	Wm. Pike's bill for boarding selectmen, collectors, &c.,	14.79
"	John G. Robinson's bill for services as town agent,	44.50
"	" " balance due him,	12.34
"	S. W. Mead's bill of abatements for 1847,	9.33
"	" " " " 1849,	105.08
"	" " collecting in 1849,	53.29
"	Warren Lovell's bill,	25.00
"	Witness in the Gordon road case,	24.86
"	Taylor L. Grant's bill of abatements for 1847,	1.52
"	" " " " " 1848,	17.64
"	" " " for collection in 1848,	22.04
"	Giles Leach's bill services as Superintending School Com.,	15.00
"	J. S. Neal's bill of abatements in 1849,	21.04
"	" " " for collection in 1849,	18.00
"	J. Davis 2d bill of expenses in getting money from the State,	.38
"	J. Davis 2d bill for services as Selectman,	59.00
"	S. Swain's bill for services as Selectman,	73.00
"	T. H. Holland's do. do.,	80.50
"	J. Davis 2d bill for horse hire,	9.95
"	Smith Swain's bill for do.,	20.80

Paid	H. O. Bagley award 1848,	\$280.00
"	interest on do.,	4.45
"	J. P. Pitman's bill for plank and for District No. 1,	16.75
"	Charles Ranlet's bill for work done in District No. 1,	60.54
"	Cole, Davis & Co.'s bill for plank and timber for the Messer bridge,	116.51
"	John Piper's bill for labor on do.,	1.00
"	Martin Piper's bill for do. do.,	.50
"	Charles Bedee's bill for do. do.,	2.50
"	William G. Conner's bill for do. do.,	2.00
"	Hugh Blaisdell's bill for do. do.,	6.25
"	Andrew Fickering's bill for do. do.,	2.50
"	Nathaniel Sanborn's bill for do. do.,	9.75
"	Cole, Davis & Co.'s bill for spikes for do.,	1.20
"	" " " " " timber &c., for the Wiers bridge,	54.04
"	Winchell Blaisdell's bill for breaking road,	1.00
"	Abram Drake's bill for making new road,	552.64
"	John Chapman's bill for plank,	2.73
"	Henry C. True's bill for labor on bridges,	3.00
"	James Gordon's bill for plank,	9.33
"	Jacob Smith's bill for plank,	9.33
"	Levi S. Swain's bill for plank for 1848,	.80
"	Jacob Smith's bill for labor on Cove bridge,	3.00
"	Jacob Smith's bill for breaking road in 1848,	2.50
"	John S. Dolloff's bill for plank,	10.09
"	Jonathan Robinson's bill for repairing the Plumer road,	5.15
"	Theophilus S. Sanborn's bill for plank,	4.37
"	John Runlet's 3d bill for breaking the Plumer road,	3.25
"	David P. Hatch's bill for breaking road,	3.60
"	J. C. Hobart's bill for breaking the Plumer road,	5.40
"	Jacob Perkin's bill for plank,	2.40
"	Joseph Leavitt's bill do.,	1.08
"	Edward Chase's bill do.,	2.85
"	J. B. Tilton's bill for do and labor on roads,	9.90
"	Noah Pease award,	150.00
"	J. & S. D. Pease do.,	224.00
"	David P. Hatch do.,	20.00
"	S. T. Cram's bill for labor on road.	6.00

Paid out on account of Schools,	\$1277.39
“ out on account of Poor,	624.63
“ town expenses,	2707.06
“ for roads and bridges,	1726.28
“ Parsonage funds,	148.20
“ Collector's lists on hand,	1412.19
“ on note to pay up railroad stock,	328.68

Deduct the amount which they charge themselves with,	8057.68
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Leaving a balance due the Selectmen of	\$166.75
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Respectfully subscribed by

JOHN DAVIS, 2D, } *Selectmen*
SMITH SWAIN, } *of*
THOS. H. HOLLAND. } *Meredith.*

The undersigned having examined the foregoing accounts of the Selectmen, find them correctly cast and well vouched,

CHARLES SMITH,
LANE PLUMER,
JOHN HAYNES. } *Auditors.*

Liabilities of the Town.

Due Moses G. Plumer,	\$391.01
“ Ira Woodman,	106.00
“ Richard Davis,	200.00
“ Belknap County Bank,	731.23
“ Moses Plumer,	175.00
“ Gideon Piper for money borrowed,	300.00
“ the Selectmen,	166.75
	<hr/> \$2069.99

The following items are due the town:—

Due from the County for support of paupers at town farm,	116.00
Due from the Town Agent's funds,	169.68
Collector's lists and notes on hand,	1412.19
	<hr/> \$1697.87
	372.12
Amount due on notes in hands of the Town Agent,	2114.67
Amount paid in for railroad stock,	10,000.00

Overseer's Report of the Affairs at the Alms House.

INVOICE OF PROPERTY.

2 Oxen,	\$100.00	50 bushels Corn,	50.00
6 Cows,	110.00	17 “ Oats,	8.50
3 Shoates,	30.00	150 “ Potatoes,	45.00
21 Sheep,	.40	109 lbs Fresh Meat,	8.72
7 tons Hay,	.84	Apple Sauce and Barrel	.50
5 bushels Wheat,	7.50	100 lbs Lard,	12.00
14 “ Beans,	18.67	1-2 bbl Pickles,	1.00
50 lbs Tallow,	5.00	60 lbs Butter,	10.00
135 lbs Bacon,	13.50	1 bbl Soap and Barrels,	4.00
35 lbs Dried Apples,	2.10	450 lbs Beef,	22.50
55 cords Wood,	55.00	Sole and Upper Leather,	1.75
1-2 bbl Vinegar,	2.00	1-2 bushel Peas,	.75
1 bush Onions,	1.00	11 lbs Cotton Yarn,	2.75
600 lbs Pork,	60.00	8 galls Molasses,	2.40
20 doz Candles,	3.33	New Well,	50.00
1-2 bbl flour,	3.50	18 yds Flannel,	4.50
Coarse and fine Salt,	.75	Am't of Farming Tools, Beds,	
Lumber at the house and mill,	40.00	Bedding, Clothing, House-	
58 rods of Stone Wall,	48.00	hold Furniture, &c.,	578.62
Betterments to house, painting,	18.50		
6 1-4 lbs Woolen Yarn,	4.69		<hr/> \$1450.43

The Overseers of the Poor find the property at the Alms House,	
March 1, 1849, to have been appraised at	\$1663.35
Due from the County,	75.00
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	\$1738.35
The amount at the Alms House March 1, 1850,	\$1450.43
Due from the County,	116.50
	<hr/>
	\$1566.93
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Balance,	\$171.42
Amount due the Superintendent March 1, 1850,	\$175.00
Interest on the purchase money,	99.00
Paid for necessities at the Alms House,	161.63
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	\$435.63
Received of the County for support of paupers on the town farm,	\$142.00
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	\$293.63

JOHN DAVIS, 2^d,
SMITH SWAIN,
THOS. H. HOLLAND. } *Overseers of the Poor.*

Names and Ages of Persons at the Alms House, and who have their support therefrom.

MALES.		FEMALES.	
John Haven,	59	Lydia Griffin,	70
David Clough,	43	Susan Edgerly,	59
John Tilton,	53	Hannah Smith,	59
Joseph Batchelder,	26	Olive Hill,	40
Michael Cloughtry,		Rhoda Farrar,	52
		Harriet Shepherd,	40
		Sally Rowe,	68
		Hannah Sanborn,	40

SURPLUS AGENT'S REPORT.

The subscriber, chosen Agent to receive the Surplus Revenue, as divided to the towns in 1837, loan the same, and afterwards, to pay the same into the Railroad, in conformity to the various votes of the Town, would respectfully report as follows:

That in April and July, 1837, he received of the State Treasurer \$7,439.85, and the same was loaned to individuals, agreeable to the votes of the Town. That he collected the interest each year, and paid the same to the Selectmen, which was endorsed on his Bond to the amount of \$4,598.18, the last payment was made March 7, 1849. The amount of interest due at that time, and what has since been received, amounting to \$437.87, has been applied to the payment of Railroad Stock. He would state that while the money was collecting in order to pay the Railroad Stock subscribed for, there was a loss of interest, as those who had it took measures to pay while money was plenty, and it was not, at the time, deemed expedient, to pay so fast as received into the Railroad.

In addition to the first loans of money, being that which was received, \$7,439.85 and the interest which accrued, there has been paid in, re-loaned, collected and paid into the Railroad, an amount forming an account of \$22,651.13. Of the loans made, amounting to \$20,090.98, they have all been collected—except that to Jona. P. Cram—of \$200. For that amount with interest and cost to this time, amounting to \$258, the town have entered into possession of the property mortgaged, which is presumed would bring nearly or quite enough to pay the debt. The dividend of interest declared by the Railroad Corporation to January, 1848, amounting to \$246.42, was received and applied to the payment of the Stock.

The certificate of Railroad Stock for one hundred Shares, has been de-

livered to the Selectmen. He has also submitted to the Selectmen, a detailed account of the various loans, and interests received of each individual, a general view of which is hereto made, as follows :

JOHN T. COFFIN, Agent.		Dr.
Cash received of State Treasurer for Surplus Revenue,	7,439.85	
Interests received—including 246.42 of Railroad,	5,036.05	
Cash of John G. Robinson, Town Agent,	2,168.50	
Cash of Belknap County Bank for Town note,	832.00	
		<hr/>
		\$15,476.40

CONTRA.		Cr.
Paid interest to Selectmen,	4,598.18	
“ Boston, Concord & Montreal Railroad,	10,000.00	
“ bill cost, Town vs. Jona. P. Cram,	9.99	
“ Belknap County Bank,	488.65	
“ to Selectmen per receipts,	179.58	
By Jona. P. Cram's debt by writ of possession in favor of Town,	200.00	
		<hr/>
		\$15,476.40

JOHN T. COFFIN,

Agent to loan Surplus Money.

March 6, 1850.



REPORT

Of the Superintending School Committee of the Town of Meredith, For the Year Ending March, 1850.

THE Superintending School Committee respectfully report, that in the prosecution of their duties, they have examined all the Teachers who have desired examination, and made more than eighty visits to the various Schools taught in the town. They have also been called upon in two instances, to remove difficulties which have arisen between Teachers and Scholars; and in both believe themselves to have been successful. In one case, however, it was not without unusual effort or painful emotions. In their visits they have made such suggestions to teachers and pupils respecting the instruction and government of the School on the one hand, and the duty of obedience, diligence and virtuous conduct on the other, as seemed necessary. Especially have the Committee recommended a thorough acquaintance with those studies which are fundamental, and which are never mastered if neglected or superficially attended to in the earlier stages of education. They have therefore been more careful to ascertain the progress of Scholars in Reading, Spelling, Arithmetic, English Grammar and Geography, because they consider these studies to be essential; and the motives to such a pursuit of knowledge and such a course of conduct as would be most useful to them now as Scholars, and hereafter when engaged in the business of life, and most pleasing to God, were presented to their minds accompanied with prayer for the Divine blessing.

The amount of money raised by the taxes for the support of Schools is \$1012.83, and that received from the Literary Fund is \$256.81: Total 1269.64. This sum has been apportioned among 23 School Districts; the largest receiving \$260.22 and the smallest \$8.58—the average for our 23 School Districts would be \$55.20. Reports have been received from 18 School Districts, of which 9 have enjoyed Winter Schools only; seven have had one Winter and one Summer School each; and two, Nos. 1 and 17, have each supported two Winter and two Summer Schools. Besides these one District has been reported the number of which is not known.

In all these Schools there have been 32 Teachers;—7 males and 24 females;—801 Scholars in the Winter, and 512 in Summer Schools. The average attendance in the Winter has been 575, and in the Summer 385 Scholars. The number of weeks during which Schools have been taught in the Winter is 211 and in the Summer 98 weeks. Total, 309 weeks or about 4 years.

As to the immediate results of their labors, the Committee have not been very sanguine, because permanent improvement is slowly made. Yet we think that the Schools have in some respects, made progress. Some of them read perhaps better than at any previous time. In some instances the Scholars have exhibited a greater readiness in communicating the knowledge attained, and the studies have evidently been pursued with more thoroughness; particularly is this true of Arithmetic and Geography. In most Schools good order has been observed, and in some, great improvement in this respect, has been attained. Generally, perhaps, a greater desire for improvement appears in the schools, and both scholars and parents manifest more than usual interest in the subject of Education and seem more than formerly to realize its importance.

We acknowledge our obligations to the prudential committees of many School Districts for the aid and co-operation which they have rendered. In some Schools the improvement made has been owing in no small degree to their judicious selection of Teachers and other efforts to advance the cause of Education in their respective Districts.

While improvement in these respects has been made, the Committee regret to say that there yet remain faults and deficiencies which should be done away. Some of the School Districts are so small that the money apportioned to them is not sufficient to pay a well qualified Teacher a proper length of time. Not a few of our school houses are faulty in construction and location, or by being both as to their exterior and interior more or less out of repair. We have doubted whether all of them are so well guarded against the effects of fire, that insurance upon them could be had at the usual rates. And though an improvement in cleanliness is observable, yet we think that children and youth would enjoy greater health and comfort in houses more frequently swept and washed and scoured. Some teachers have manifested greater incompetency in not knowing how to teach than in a want of acquaintance with the branches taught; and more have failed in maintaining discipline. Not a few of our Schools have suffered in this respect, though less we hope than during the last year. Sometimes an unpleasant "coarseness in manners" has been noticed in Teachers and consequently in Pupils, for the one is a cause of the other. And apparently, Teachers have not always been selected with reference to the peculiar character and wants of the Schools which they taught. Too

much care cannot be exercised in the selection of those to whom our children are to be entrusted. A Teacher well qualified in all respects, is not easily found; but the importance of the proper education of our children is great, and it is essential that the best persons that can be obtained should be secured to instruct and discipline them so as to secure their highest good and exhibit such an example as will insensibly lead them in the right way.

The Committee consider the frequent visiting of Schools by parents as very desirable and even essential to their highest prosperity. Nothing is more common than for parents to make free remarks in praise or censure of Teachers, when if the enquiry were made "Have you visited the School?" the answer would be "We have not." And all the knowledge they have is derived from the occasional remarks of their children or of others who perhaps really know less, and the character of a Teacher and his School is founded entirely on the testimony of those who from the nature of the case are incompetent judges. From the same cause, also, difficulties sometimes arise which disturb the School and injure the influence of the Teacher, because parents choose to listen to the partial account of things given by a favorite child. But were they to adopt the practice of passing an occasional hour which could not be more profitably employed, in a visit to the School, many a difficulty would be obviated; and what is better still, parents, teachers and scholars would understand, sympathize and co-operate with each other to the great advantage of the cause of Education ~~and the welfare of their children~~. The Committee would therefore say, that, in their view not a week should pass without a visit to the District School by some of the parents.

Another suggestion is respectfully made. It relates to the increase of the sum which is annually raised for the support of Schools. It is not that the amount of our School tax is in itself diminutive; but it is believed to be small when compared with the wants of the rising generation. This is also the opinion of the towns of the State in regard to the School tax, for a majority of them at the last annual town meeting, voluntarily added to the sum required by law for the purpose of Education. Few towns are so able as that of Meredith to increase their amount of School money.

A Teachers' Institute if rightly conducted would undoubtedly be of advantage to the cause of Education. The latter of those holden at Meredith Bridge, was productive of good. There is reason to believe that other parts of the county would receive from this source, equal benefit. The expense divided among our several towns, would not be burdensome.

But in reference to the important subject of the qualification of Teachers for the high and honorable office and employment, the Committee would express their conviction that nothing less than a STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,

or its equivalent, will fully meet the demands of Education or satisfy the desires of its friends or supply the wants of instructors in New Hampshire.

It is desirable that a library of books suitable for the young should be located in every School District, or that a moveable library should be obtained, which might be transferred from district to district, as might be considered proper. This is suggested because many books of great importance to the young, may not be introduced into the school room, and yet would occupy the evening hours of children and youth which otherwise would not be so well occupied. The adoption of such a plan would also be a means of taking from the hands of young people, many a book which is worse than useless, and supply them with reading which is both interesting and profitable. In one of our School Districts a small library of twenty volumes has been purchased at the expense of a few individuals, which is now read with pleasure by the children and youth who have access to them. From this experiment, and from others, also, we presume no doubt can be entertained in regard to the advantage of a well selected library of books—neither fictitious nor sectarian—adapted to the young mind.

Another topic which your Committee respectfully suggest, is the great necessity of watchfulness and care, on the part of Teachers, in relation to the morals of their pupils. It is required by the law, but we fear is not made so prominent as it should be in the school. The teacher is not to do the duties of the minister, nor should he shew any disposition to inculcate the peculiarities of the denomination to which he may belong. But since some children may use profane language; others may be habitually selfish and unkind to their school-fellows; some may be guilty of falsehood, some of petty theft; and some of other vices, it becomes the duty of the teacher to offer such remarks and adopt such measures as shall effectually, if possible, eradicate these evil practices, and build up a pure and virtuous community. To accomplish this high object he should also instil into the minds of his pupils, such principles, and as far as he may, form such habits as shall make them most useful members of society, in this life, and aid in preparing for the better society of the life to come and the direct and eternal tuition of the great Teacher in Heaven.

STEPHEN J. PITMAN,	} <i>Superintending School Com.</i>
GILES LEACH,	
JOHN K. YOUNG.	